

Jessica R. K. Dorman, Esq. (SBN: 279919)

jessica@westcoastlitigation.com

Robert L. Hyde, Esq. (SBN: 227183)

bob@westcoastlitigation.com

**Hyde & Swigart**

2221 Camino Del Rio South, Suite 101

San Diego, CA 92108-3609

T: (619) 233-7770

F: (619) 297-1022

Attorneys for Robert K. Brittingham

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

<p>Robert K. Brittingham,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Plaintiff,</p> <p>v.</p> <p>Asset Acceptance, LLC; and Fulton, Friedman &amp; Gullace, LLP,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Defendants.</p>	<p><b>Case No: <u>'13CV2614 DMS WVG</u></b></p> <p><b>Complaint For Damages</b></p> <p><b>Jury Trial Demanded</b></p>
---	---

**INTRODUCTION**

- The United States Congress has found abundant evidence of the use of abusive, deceptive, and unfair debt collection practices by many debt collectors, and has determined that abusive debt collection practices contribute to the number of personal bankruptcies, to marital instability, to the loss of jobs, and to invasions of individual privacy. Congress wrote the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq. (hereinafter “FDCPA”), to eliminate abusive debt collection practices by debt collectors, to insure that those debt collectors who refrain from using abusive debt

1 collection practices are not competitively disadvantaged, and to promote  
2 consistent State action to protect consumers against debt collection abuses.

3 2. The California legislature has determined that the banking and credit system  
4 and grantors of credit to consumers are dependent upon the collection of just  
5 and owing debts and that unfair or deceptive collection practices undermine  
6 the public confidence that is essential to the continued functioning of the  
7 banking and credit system and sound extensions of credit to consumers. The  
8 Legislature has further determined that there is a need to ensure that debt  
9 collectors exercise this responsibility with fairness, honesty and due regard  
10 for the debtor's rights and that debt collectors must be prohibited from  
11 engaging in unfair or deceptive acts or practices.

12 3. Robert K. Brittingham, (Plaintiff), through Plaintiff's attorneys, brings this  
13 action to challenge the actions of Asset Acceptance, LLC ("Asset") and  
14 Fulton, Friedman & Gullace, LLP, ("Fulton") (jointly "Defendants"), with  
15 regard to attempts by Defendants to unlawfully and abusively collect a debt  
16 allegedly owed by Plaintiff, and this conduct caused Plaintiff damages.

17 4. Plaintiff makes these allegations on information and belief, with the exception  
18 of those allegations that pertain to a plaintiff, or to a plaintiff's counsel, which  
19 Plaintiff alleges on personal knowledge.

20 5. While many violations are described below with specificity, this Complaint  
21 alleges violations of the statutes cited in their entirety.

22 6. Unless otherwise stated, all the conduct engaged in by Defendants took place  
23 in California.

24 7. Any violations by Defendants were knowing, willful, and intentional, and  
25 Defendants did not maintain procedures reasonably adapted to avoid any such  
26 violation.

27 ///

28 ///

# **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

8. Jurisdiction of this Court arises pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331, 15 U.S.C. § 1692(k), and 28 U.S.C. § 1367 for supplemental state claims.
9. This action arises out of Defendants' violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692 et seq. ("FDCPA") and the Rosenthal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, California Civil Code §§ 1788-1788.32 ("Rosenthal Act").
10. Plaintiff resides in the city of San Diego within the County of San Diego, California.
11. Defendant Asset regularly operates within the county of San Diego and files hundreds of lawsuits, including one against Plaintiff, in the San Diego Superior Court. This lawsuit is the action that gives rise to Plaintiff's claim.
12. Because Defendant Asset does business and has the capacity to sue within the County of San Diego, State of California, personal jurisdiction is established, and venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1) & (c)(2).
13. Defendant Fulton regularly operates within the county of San Diego and was retained by Defendant Asset to file a collection lawsuit against Plaintiff in San Diego County. This lawsuit is the action that gives rise to Plaintiff's claim.
14. Because Defendant Fulton does business and has the capacity to sue within the County of San Diego, State of California, personal jurisdiction is established, and venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1) & (c)(2).
15. Because a substantial part of the events giving rise to the claim occurred in San Diego, venue is also proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2).
16. Because Defendants do business within the County of San Diego, State of California, personal jurisdiction is established.
17. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391.
18. At all times relevant, Defendants conducted business within the County of San Diego, the State of California.

**PARTIES**

19. Plaintiff is a natural person who resides in the City of San Diego, State of California.
20. Defendant Asset Acceptance, LLC (“Asseet”) is located in the City of Warren, in the State of Michigan.
21. Defendant Fulton, Friedman & Gullace, LLP (“Fulton”) is located in the City of Concord, in the State of California.
22. Plaintiff is obligated or allegedly obligated to pay a debt, and is a “consumer” as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3).
23. Defendants are persons who use an instrumentality of interstate commerce or the mails in a business the principal purpose of which is the collection of debts, or who regularly collect or attempt to collect, directly or indirectly, debts owed or due or asserted to be owed or due another and are therefore debt collectors as that phrase is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).
24. Plaintiff is a natural person from whom a debt collector sought to collect a consumer debt which was due and owing or alleged to be due and owing from Plaintiff, and is a “debtor” as that term is defined by California Civil Code § 1788.2(h).
25. Defendants, in the ordinary course of business, regularly, on behalf of themselves, or others, engage in debt collection as that term is defined by California Civil Code § 1788.2(b), are therefore debt collectors as that term is defined by California Civil Code § 1788.2(c).
26. This case involves money, property or their equivalent, due or owing or alleged to be due or owing from a natural person by reason of a consumer credit transaction. As such, this action arises out of a consumer debt and “consumer credit” as those terms are defined by Cal. Civ. Code § 1788.2(f).

///

///

**FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

27. Sometime before April of 2009, Plaintiff is alleged to have incurred certain financial obligations.
28. These financial obligations were primarily for personal, family or household purposes and are therefore a “debt” as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692a(5).
29. These alleged obligations were money, property, or their equivalent, which is due or owing, or alleged to be due or owing, from a natural person to another person and are therefore a “debt” as that term is defined by California Civil Code §1788.2(d), and a “consumer debt” as that term is defined by California Civil Code §1788.2(f).
30. Sometime thereafter, but before July 10, 2009, Plaintiff allegedly fell behind in the payments allegedly owed on the alleged debt. Plaintiff currently takes no position as to the validity of this alleged debt.
31. Subsequently, but before July 10, 2013, the alleged debt was assigned, placed, or otherwise transferred, to Asset for collection.
32. Subsequently, but before July 10, 2013, Defendant, Asset, a debt collector pursuant to the FDCPA, retained Defendant, Fulton also a debt collector pursuant to the FDCPA to proceed with legal action against Plaintiff for the collection of Plaintiff’s alleged financial obligations.
33. Pursuant to the instructions of Defendant, Asset, Defendant, Fulton in the name of Asset, filed a state collection case against Plaintiff on July 10, 2013 in the San Diego Superior Court based on defendant’s consumer account that was allegedly in default, Case No. 37-2013-56886-CL-CL-CTL.
34. Plaintiff was served with the summons and complaint shortly after then.
35. This communication to Plaintiff was a “communication” as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(2), and an “initial communication” consistent with 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a).

1 36. This communication was a “debt collection” as Cal. Civ. Code 1788.2(b)  
2 defines that phrase, and an “initial communication” consistent with Cal. Civ.  
3 Code § 1812.700(b).

4 37. Defendants’ lawsuit against Plaintiff was based on a contract and several other  
5 common counts each of which have a statute of limitations of four (4) years.

6 38. Through the discovery process, Fulton provided bank statements showing that  
7 Plaintiff was incurring late charges in several months including, May, June,  
8 and July of 2009 without making any payments, demonstrating that Plaintiff  
9 defaulted on the account sometime before May of 2009.

10 39. Defendants did not file the underlying state court action until July 10, 2013,  
11 months after the statute of limitations ran.

12 40. Defendants brought their action against Plaintiff knowing that the statute of  
13 limitations had run. Plaintiff’s debt could no longer be enforced by legal  
14 action.

15 41. Through this conduct, Defendant made a false representation concerning the  
16 character, amount, or legal status of a debt. Consequently, Defendant violated  
17 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(2)(A).

18 42. Through this conduct, Defendant threatened to take action that cannot legally  
19 be taken or that is not intended to be taken. Consequently, Defendant violated  
20 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(5).

21 43. Through this conduct, Defendant used false representations or deceptive  
22 means to collect or attempt to collect a debt or to obtain information  
23 concerning a consumer. Consequently, Defendant violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692e  
24 and 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(10).

25 44. Because this violated certain portions of the federal Fair Debt Collection  
26 Practices Act as these portions are incorporated by reference in the Rosenthal  
27 Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, through California Civil Code § 1788.17,  
28 this conduct or omission violated Cal. Civ. Code § 1788.17.

**CAUSES OF ACTION****COUNT I****FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT (FDCPA)****15 U.S.C. §§ 1692 ET SEQ.**

45. Plaintiff repeats, re-alleges, and incorporates by reference, all other paragraphs.

46. The foregoing acts and omissions constitute numerous and multiple violations of the FDCPA, including but not limited to each and every one of the above-cited provisions of the FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq.

47. As a result of each and every violation of the FDCPA, Plaintiff is entitled to any actual damages pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(1); statutory damages in an amount up to \$1,000.00 pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(2)(A); and, reasonable attorney's fees and costs pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(3) from each and every defendant, jointly and severally.

**COUNT II****ROSENTHAL FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT (ROSENTHAL ACT)****CAL. CIV. CODE §§ 1788-1788.32**

48. Plaintiff repeats, re-alleges, and incorporates by reference, all other paragraphs.

49. The foregoing acts and omissions constitute numerous and multiple violations of the Rosenthal Act, including but not limited to each and every one of the above-cited provisions of the Rosenthal Act, Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1788-1788.32

50. As a result of each and every violation of the Rosenthal Act, Plaintiff is entitled to any actual damages pursuant to Cal. Civ. Code § 1788.30(a); statutory damages for a knowing or willful violation in the amount up to \$1,000.00 pursuant to Cal. Civ. Code § 1788.30(b); and reasonable attorney's fees and costs pursuant to Cal. Civ. Code § 1788.30(c) from each and every defendant, jointly and severally.

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays that judgment be entered against Defendant, and Plaintiff be awarded damages from Defendant, as follows:

- An award of actual damages pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(1);
- An award of statutory damages of \$1,000.00 pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(2)(A);
- An award of costs of litigation and reasonable attorney's fees, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(3);
- An award of actual damages pursuant to California Civil Code § 1788.30(a);
- An award of statutory damages of \$1,000.00 pursuant to Cal. Civ. Code § 1788.30(b);
- An award of costs of litigation and reasonable attorney's fees, pursuant to Cal. Civ. Code § 1788.30(c).

51. Pursuant to the seventh amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America, Plaintiff is entitled to, and demands, a trial by jury.

Respectfully submitted,

**Hyde & Swigart**

Date: October 21, 2013

By: /s/Jessica R. K. Dorman  
Jessica R. K. Dorman  
Attorneys for Plaintiff



## CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

**I. (a) PLAINTIFFS**

Robert K. Brittingham

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff San Diego  
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)

Jessica R. K. Dorman, Esq.; Robert L. Hyde, Esq.; Hyde & Swigart  
2221 Camino Del Rio South, Suite 101, San Diego, CA 92108  
(619) 233-7770

**DEFENDANTS**

Asset Acceptance, LLC; and Fulton, Friedman &amp; Gullace, LLP

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant \_\_\_\_\_  
(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF  
THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known)

**'13CV2614 DMS WVG****II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION** (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff
- ☒ 3 Federal Question  
(U.S. Government Not a Party)
- ☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant
- ☐ 4 Diversity  
(Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

**III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES** (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

- |   | PTF                        | DEF                        |   | PTF                        | DEF                        |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Citizen of This State                   | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State     | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| Citizen of Another State                | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Foreign Nation  | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 |

**IV. NATURE OF SUIT** (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	<b>PERSONAL INJURY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice	<b>PERSONAL INJURY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 367 Health Care/Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability <b>LABOR</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 <input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other <b>PROPERTY RIGHTS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark <b>SOCIAL SECURITY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g))	<input type="checkbox"/> 375 False Claims Act <input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit <input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 896 Arbitration <input type="checkbox"/> 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
REAL PROPERTY	CIVIL RIGHTS	PRISONER PETITIONS	LABOR	FEDERAL TAX SUITS
<input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation <input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure <input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment <input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land <input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property	<input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting <input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other <input type="checkbox"/> 448 Education	<b>Habeas Corpus:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 463 Alien Detainee <input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence <input type="checkbox"/> 530 General <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty <b>Other:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition <input type="checkbox"/> 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement	<input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Management Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 751 Family and Medical Leave Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act <b>IMMIGRATION</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 462 Naturalization Application <input type="checkbox"/> 465 Other Immigration Actions	<input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609

**V. ORIGIN** (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☒ 1 Original Proceeding    ☐ 2 Removed from State Court    ☐ 3 Remanded from Appellate Court    ☐ 4 Reinstated or Reopened    ☐ 5 Transferred from Another District (specify)    ☐ 6 Multidistrict Litigation

**VI. CAUSE OF ACTION**

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):  
15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq.

Brief description of cause:  
Unfair Debt Collection Practices

**VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:**

☐ CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P.    **DEMAND \$**  
75,001.00

CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:

**JURY DEMAND:** ☒ Yes    ☐ No**VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY**

(See instructions):

JUDGE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCKET NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

DATE

10/29/2013

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

s/Jessica R. K. Dorman

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT # \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT \_\_\_\_\_

APPLYING IFP \_\_\_\_\_

JUDGE \_\_\_\_\_

MAG. JUDGE \_\_\_\_\_

# INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

## Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- I.(a) Plaintiffs-Defendants.** Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
  - (b) County of Residence.** For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
  - (c) Attorneys.** Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".
- II. Jurisdiction.** The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.Cv.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.
- United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here.
- United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.
- Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.
- Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; **NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.**)
- III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties.** This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. Nature of Suit.** Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If the nature of suit cannot be determined, be sure the cause of action, in Section VI below, is sufficient to enable the deputy clerk or the statistical clerk(s) in the Administrative Office to determine the nature of suit. If the cause fits more than one nature of suit, select the most definitive.
- V. Origin.** Place an "X" in one of the six boxes.
- Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.
- Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.
- Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.
- Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date.
- Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.
- Multidistrict Litigation. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407. When this box is checked, do not check (5) above.
- VI. Cause of Action.** Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. **Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.** Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service
- VII. Requested in Complaint.** Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P.
- Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction.
- Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.
- VIII. Related Cases.** This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

**Date and Attorney Signature.** Date and sign the civil cover sheet.